

# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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**Matins and other readings**  
**from *To Bless the Space Between Us* by John O'Donohue**  
**Wednesday of Holy Week, March 31, 2021**  
**The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Leader**

## **Matins**

1 Somewhere, out at the edges, the night  
is turning and the waves of darkness  
begin to brighten the shore of dawn.

The heavy dark falls back to earth  
and the freed air goes wild with light.  
The heart fills with fresh, bright breath,  
and the thoughts stir to give birth to color.

2 I arise today  
in the name of Silence.  
Womb of the Word,  
in the name of stillness  
home of belonging.  
In the name of the Solitude  
of the Soul and the Earth.  
I arise today.

3 Blessing by all things,  
wings of breath,  
delight of eyes,  
wonder of whisper,  
intimacy of touch,  
eternity of soul,  
urgency of thought,  
miracle of health,  
embrace of God.

4 May I live this day  
compassionate of heart,  
clear in word,  
gracious in awareness,  
courageous in thought,  
generous in love.

## **Psalm 70** *(said responsively)*

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; \*  
O Lord, make haste to help me.

- 2 **Let those who seek my life be ashamed  
and altogether dismayed; \*  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune  
draw back and be disgraced.**
- 3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, \*  
because they are ashamed.
- 4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; \*  
let those who love your salvation say for ever,  
"Great is the Lord!"**
- 5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; \*  
come to me speedily, O God.
- 6 **You are my helper and my deliverer; \*  
O Lord, do not tarry.**

### **The Reading for the Day**

At supper with his friends, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples-- the one whom Jesus loved-- was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor.

So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

### **For Someone Who Did You Wrong**

Though its way is to strike  
in a dumb rhythm,  
stroke upon stroke,  
as though the heart  
were an anvil,  
the hurt you sent  
had a mind of its own.

Something in you knew  
exactly how to shape it,  
to hit the target,  
slipping into the heart  
through some wound-window  
left open since childhood.

While it struck outside,  
it burrowed inside,  
made tunnels through  
every ground of confidence.  
For days, it would lie still  
until a thought would start it.

Meanwhile, you forgot,  
went on with things  
and never even knew  
how that perfect  
shape of hurt  
still continued to work.

Now a new kindness  
seems to have entered time  
and I can see how that hurt  
has schooled my heart  
In a compassion I would  
otherwise have never learned.

Somehow now  
I have begun to glimpse  
the unexpected fruit  
our dark gift had planted.  
And I thank you  
for your unknown work.

## **Reflection**

### **Parting Blessing** *(From the Iona Abbey Worship Book)*

May God, who is present in sunrise and nightfall,  
and in the crossing of the sea,  
guide your feet as you go.

May God, who is with you when you sit  
and when you stand, encompass you with love  
and lead you by the hand.

May God, who knows your path  
and the places where you rest,  
be with you in your waiting,  
be your good news for sharing,  
and lead you in the way that is everlasting.

**Amen.**